GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6328
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
CROSS BORDER TERRORISM
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. is aware of the role of Pak in the infiltration of militants into India as reported in the Indian Express dated March 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the issue of cross border terrorism with U.S. again; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) The newspaper report referred to in the question reflects the views of its author. This report, as many others, have raised concerns that Pakistan is going back on the commitments that President Musharraf made on 12 January 2002 to fight terrorism and end Pakistan`s links with terrorism, including cross-border terrorism directed against India. The news report states, inter alia, that Pakistan released, by the last week of March, at least 800 of the militants and terrorists arrested in January and has resumed helping the infiltration of these groups into Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) & (d) Government uses every opportunity to convey to the United States, including at the meetings of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, Pakistan`s sponsorship of and support to cross-border terrorism in India. Government has shared with the international community, including the United States, information and assessment on the resumption of Pakistan`s support to terrorist activities in India in recent weeks.